

doing far too little for the inebriated portion of our population. Since by inhuman laws we permit the sale of alcoholic intoxicants as beverages and thus encourage inebriety surely we ought to repair so far as possible the damages for which in large measure we are responsible. It has been said that a government should enact such laws as will make it hard for citizens to do wrong and easy to do right.

There seems to exist no good reason why, both from private and public sources, the insane should have larger and more humane provisions than the alcoholic inebriate. The comparatively few private institutions for the cure of inebriety scattered through the country and the less than half a dozen public inebriate hospitals should be supplemented by at least one such hospital maintained by public expense in every State; and, in many States there should be several. For the reformation and care of their inmates these hospitals should be equipped with all the appliances which the most advanced thought of the age can suggest and money can supply; including a gymnasium, lecture-hall, reading-room and library. With each one should be connected an industrial department, and work by every inmate should be compulsory. A military training school may also be a useful adjunct to such an institution. For the superintendence of each should be selected a physician who has made inebriety a special study and has a practical knowledge of the best methods of its cure.

The cost of erecting, equipping, and maintaining such hospitals the State would soon save in the lessened expense attached to murder, suicide, theft, arson, accident, disease, poverty caused by the inebriate permitted to run at large. To these institutions should be sent all excessive inebriates except such as belong to families that will convert their own homes into private inebriate hospitals. Those inebriates who will not enter a hospital voluntarily should be compelled to do so by the strong arm of the law. The inebriate without estate who is under State care should be supported by State moneys. His family also should have necessary aid from the State during detention. This method is in vogue in one of the cantons of Switzerland. These establishments should resemble as far as possible well-ordered homes.

The author of this paper does not wish to be understood as condoning the crimes of responsible

criminals, but as recommending the abandonment of many barbarous methods now in use for the punishment of the alcoholic inebriate, and as advocating a reasonable method of treatment for his reformation and cure in consonance with the enlightened and scientific spirit of these last years of the nineteenth century.

The special thoughts which have forced themselves upon my attention in the study of this subject may be summarized as follows:

The importance of this question is shown by the magnitude of the evils of inebriety and their disastrous effects upon individuals, communities, and the nation.

The prime factor in the treatment of both the moderate and excessive inebriate is the total abandonment of the drinking habit.

For many reasons the alcoholic inebriate can be treated more successfully in an inebriate hospital properly equipped and wisely managed than in any other place.

Compulsory committal to an inebriate hospital and detention therein until cured, should be made lawful for all excessive alcoholic inebriates, who will not enter such an institution and submit to proper restraint voluntarily.

The prevailing mode of punishing the alcoholic inebriate by fine and incarceration in an ordinary jail or prison should be abandoned.

The cases of all alcoholic inebriates who are arrested and brought before a magistrate, should be disposed of in accordance with the report of a medical commission.

The inebriated criminal found responsible for his crime should be confined to an institution where he will receive proper treatment for his disease.

State care and control of the alcoholic inebriate should be the persistent policy of every State in the Union.

The medical profession should make a vigorous protest against placing in a cold, damp cell of a police station, without medical care, those persons who are found on the street in an unconscious or semi-conscious state of drunkenness. Such cases require warm, comfortable quarters and medical attendance.

The alcoholic inebriate will not receive appropriate treatment until the prime workers in the fields of medical science and philanthropy have recognized him as a defective, diseased, dependent, dangerous member of society.